

Club Drugs: Ketamine

What is ketamine?

Ketamine is used as a general anesthetic (a drug used to dull pain during surgery). It is marketed in the United States and a number of foreign countries for use in surgery in both human and veterinary medical practice.



What does it look like?

Ketamine is usually found in a liquid form, since its intended use is for surgery. For street use, ketamine is changed to a white powder, and looks similar to cocaine.

What are the street names or slang terms for it?

Ketamine is also known as Special K, Vitamin K, new Ecstasy, psychedelic heroin, Ketalar, Ketaject, Super-K, breakfast cereal, and date rape drug.

How is it used?

Ketamine is usually snorted. Some people prefer to smoke it, and add the powder to marijuana or tobacco cigarettes. Ketamine also can be made into a tablet.

Because of its appearance, Ketamine is often mistaken for cocaine or crystal methamphetamine. Some reports show it is sometimes sold as MDMA (Ecstasy) and mixed with other drugs such as ephedrine and caffeine. "Cafeteria use" -- the use of a number of club drugs such as MDMA, GHB, LSD, and illegally used prescription drugs is reported almost everywhere in the U.S.

What are its effects?

Users sometimes call the high caused by Ketamine, "K hole," and describe imagining things that aren't there (hallucinations), and a lost sense of time and identity. Other effects can include delirium and hallucinations), clumsiness, cause death, violent shaking experiences, and vomiting if mixed anesthetic, it could lead the user to herself.



(confusion, disordered speech, breathing problems that can (convulsions), out of body with alcohol. Since ketamine is an accidentally cause injury to him or

The effects of a ketamine "high" usually last an hour but they can last for 4-6 hours, but it can take up to 24-48 hours before the user will feel completely "normal" again.

Effects of chronic use of ketamine may take from several months to two years to wear off completely. Large doses can cause vomiting and convulsions and may lead to a lack of oxygen to the brain and muscles. A full gram can cause death.

Flashbacks may even happen up to one year after use. Long-term effects include tolerance (needing more of the drug) and possible physical and/or psychological dependence.



Source: www.nida.nih.gov

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